

to greater efforts. I, along with John's family, and his UAW extended family will truly miss him. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of a remarkable man.

IN MEMORY OF ANTHONY
ATHANAS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Anthony Athanas, who passed away last Friday in Massachusetts at the age of 93. Anthony Athanas was a prominent Albanian American, the founder and president of the Anthony's fine family of restaurants, and one of the most illustrious business personalities in Boston.

Anthony Athanas was an institution in the Albanian American community. Not only was he an Honorary Consul of the Republic of Albania in Massachusetts, Anthony Athanas was a founding member and on the Board of Directors of the National Albanian American Council (NAAC). He was the community's senior statesman, a winner of the NAAC Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 1999, he and I were members of an historic joint Congressional and Albanian/American delegation to Kosova, Albania, and Macedonia right after the Kosovar war. Anthony told me this was one of the most extraordinary trips he ever took. Upon arriving in Kosova, he kissed the ground and said he never thought he would see the day Kosova would be free. Yet, during this trip, he told a gathering crowd of more than 3000 people in Vranoc, a town which was 80 percent burned by the Serb army, "Today you are free; tomorrow you will become an independent nation." All his life he wanted to visit a free Kosova. It was an honor to be with him when he finally saw it with his own eyes.

Anthony Athanas was born in Albania in 1911 and came to the United States at the age of 5, where he settled with his parents in New Bedford, Massachusetts. His first jobs were peddling fruits and vegetables from a cart, selling newspapers, and lighting wood and coal ovens in restaurant kitchens. He worked his way through various positions in restaurants and hotels throughout New England and New York, gaining invaluable knowledge from chefs, managers and owners. In 1937, he opened his first restaurant, Anthony's Hawthorne, in Lynn, Massachusetts. In the following years, Anthony opened several other successful restaurants.

In 1963, Anthony Athanas opened what would become his flagship restaurant, Anthony's Pier 4, on a Boston Harbor pier. The restaurant was an instant success, garnering acclaim and awards from around the world. Through the years, the restaurant has hosted heads of government, United States presidents, religious leaders, notable artists and writers, athletes, and a virtual who's who from the entertainment world.

Anthony Athanas also served on the Boards of several prominent organizations, including the National Restaurant Association, and was awarded a number of honorary degrees and doctorates.

Anthony Athanas personified the American dream. From humble beginnings in Albania,

he rose through the ranks to become a successful businessman, a national role model, and a vocal advocate for Albanian issues. He serves as an example to us all of the kind of achievement and success possible for those who are capable and willing to strive for something better. He will sorely be missed.

STEM CELL THERAPEUTIC AND
RESEARCH ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2520, the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005. This bill is significant because it would encourage one of the most promising, and ethically sound, avenues of medical research in our time: The stem cells within umbilical cord blood.

This is a matter of great interest to me, both because of the importance of the research itself and also because I represent the greater St. Louis area, which is home to the St. Louis Cord Blood Bank at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital.

Cord blood has proven successful in treating 67 diseases including sickle cell disease, leukemia, osteopetrosis and Diamond Blackfan Anemia. Just last year, a North Korean woman who had been paralyzed for 19 years was seen walking with the assistance of a walker for the media. Only a month prior she had received a cord blood treatment.

This type of extraordinary result demonstrates why we should invest in cord blood stem cells research and treatment.

An early pioneer in cord blood collection and storage, the St. Louis Cord Blood Bank has amassed the second largest inventory of cord blood in the world and has provided the second largest number of cord blood units for transplant. I commend the work of centers like the one at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital and am pleased to support his important legislation.

The men and women at the St. Louis Cord Blood Bank deserve our thanks for their integrity, dedication and commitment to bettering human life through ethical research. The promise of adult stem cell research is both substantial and uncontroversial, which is why I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2520.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2006

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2419) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out certain things

about H.R. 2419 that leave me troubled. I am quite concerned by significant reductions made in critical programs that are necessary for our nation to maintain a credible long-term nuclear deterrent. The appropriations for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) related to weapons activities was \$6.63B in FY 2005. That amount was reduced to \$6.18B by the committee, a reduction of almost \$0.5B, or nearly 10%.

The Advanced Strategic Computing (ASC) Campaign has made great advances over the past 10 years. We are now able to model things with more fidelity than ever before. This modeling is used to certify the reliability of our nuclear stockpile without nuclear testing. The ASC Campaign was funded last year at a level of \$698M. The administration request for FY06 is only \$661M—a reduction of \$37M over last year's levels. The administration's request was further reduced by the appropriations committee from \$661M to \$501M, coupled with nearly \$22M of earmarks out of the \$501M for extraneous projects, results in a final budget of less than 70% of last year's budget.

These reductions come at the same time we are asking our nation's nuclear laboratories to recertify our nuclear weapon stockpile with science and computing rather than nuclear testing. The committee states that its "recommendation recognizes the Department's inability to achieve the promises of Stockpile Stewardship effort and redirects ASCI funding to maintain current life extension production capabilities pending the initiation of the Reliable Replacement Warhead program." One cannot remove funds from the Advanced Strategic Computing program to fund the Reliable Replacement Warhead program—not expected to yield fruit for a number of years—and expect the labs to continue to certify our stockpile. These programs are not substitutes for each other.

Once again the committee has removed all funding for the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator Study. This is a worth while study, designed to answer whether or not a nuclear earth penetrator is even feasible as a means of holding Deeply Buried Hardened Targets (DBHTs) at risk. It is my understanding that this study will now move to the Department of Defense and outside of the jurisdiction of the Energy and Water Appropriations subcommittee.

Inconsistent reductions and increases seem to have been made to the infrastructure construction projects for NNSA. The \$55M administration request for the Chemistry Metallurgy Research Replacement (CMRR) Facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory was zeroed out. On the other hand the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility Y-12 National Security Complex recommended funding at a level of \$81M, an increase of \$11M over the request. The committee's reasoning zeroing "the CMRR facility should be delayed until the Department determines the long-term plan for developing the responsive infrastructure required to maintain the nation's existing nuclear stockpile and support replacement production anticipated for the RRW initiative." It is my understanding that this determination will be made by the Secretary of Energy's Advisory Board subcommittee which is due to report out in June. The committee claims that its "recommendation does not prejudice the outcome of the SEAB's subcommittee's assessment of